

THE COOKEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT:  
FROM VOLUNTEER TO PROFESSIONAL

written by:

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History of the Upper Cumberland

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PREFACE

Given the limitations of time and space, it would be impossible to cover in a comprehensive manner, the entire history of the Cookeville Fire Department. Therefore, it should be understood that this paper serves only as a comparison between the early days of the Cookeville Fire Department and the present, with a brief survey of the years between.

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INCEPTION: THE EARLY DAYS

*"The Commissioners of Cookeville, Tennessee met at the office of City Clerk, on May 23, 1917 at eight o'clock P.M. Chairman A. G. Maxwell being absent, vice-chairman W. M. Davis taking the chair declared the session open for business. F. E. Collier, Supt. of Power House, being present, was heard from in regard to the needs and importance of a well organized fire department.*

*Whereupon Commissioner Davis introduced Ordinance No. 104, entitled 'An Ordinance to Create a Fire Department and to provide Rules and Regulations therefore,' which, without objection passed first reading."*<sup>1</sup>

This is the ordinance which first created a fire department in Cookeville, but it is not, by any means, the first indication of the growing concern about fire protection, either by city government or the townspeople in general.

As early as 1906, a group of seventeen men organized a volunteer fire service.<sup>2</sup> With very few city water mains, the volunteers had to rely on private wells, creeks and springs to supply their bucket brigades.<sup>3</sup> The Cookeville Board of Mayor and Aldermen (later changed to a city commission) recognized

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<sup>1</sup>City of Cookeville, Minute Book III, p. 260.

<sup>2</sup>See Appendix II.

<sup>3</sup>Mary Jean Delozier, *Putnam County, Tennessee, 1850-1970*, p. 151.

the force in the following year and as recompense, released the volunteers from road taxes for each year served.<sup>1</sup>

In the ten years between 1907 and 1917, the city cooperated with the volunteers. The fire companies, growing yearly, were given full police power at the fire scene and were provided with firefighting equipment, from hydrants to alarms, at the city's expense.<sup>2</sup> The city was also busy devising fire protection ordinances designed to protect public and private properties.<sup>3</sup>

By 1915, however, the city began to show an interest in taking charge of the fire brigade. The mayor, in the same year, was granted the power to appoint a fire chief, but it wasn't until two years later (the same year the city government re-organized into a city commission) that this authority was apparently exercised. On May 9, 1917, J. M. Loftis was elected by Commissioners Darwin, Davis and Maxwell, as Chief of Police and Fire Department (although, by 1925, the offices were divided, with separate chiefs for the police and fire departments).<sup>4</sup> This combination of ranks was probably due to the practical nature of the city commission; the ultimate authority over the Chief of Police and Fire Department was the Commissioner of Streets, Fire and Police (also traditionally the mayor).

The ordinances creating a city fire department followed Chief Loftis' election by two weeks. One month later, the commission

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<sup>1</sup>City of Cookeville, Minute Book I, p. 256.

<sup>2</sup>City of Cookeville, Minute Books I and III, pp. 273 and 20.

<sup>3</sup>City of Cookeville, Minute Book II, pp.59-60.

<sup>4</sup>City of Cookeville, Minute Book III, p. 213.

appointed twenty-seven men who would be divided among four fire companies.<sup>1</sup> Of the original seventeen volunteers, only one, Jeff Wall, would go on to become a member of the new city fire department.

The preliminary work started by the volunteer fire brigade and subsequent management by the Cookeville City Commission created a comprehensive fire program, culminating in Ordinance 181, on May 21, 1925.<sup>2</sup> In this ordinance, the rules and regulations governing the firefighters were explained for the first time. Firefighters were virtually elected to their positions by the commission; in Section 5, grounds for their dismissal included "...Intoxication, any act of oppression or tyranny, immoral conduct (and), conduct not becoming a gentleman."

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<sup>1</sup>See Appendix III.

<sup>2</sup>See Appendix I.



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Photograph courtesy of the Cookeville Fire Department.

SALARY

Cookeville's first full-time firefighter was Bill Chaffin. On July 10, 1925, the city commission made a motion that appointed Chaffin a firefighter and presented him with a monthly salary of seventy-five dollars.<sup>1</sup> In return, he was expected to live at the fire station, maintain the equipment and drive the fire engine on all runs. He and his wife, Velma, moved into the firehouse. In the same motion, A. J. Starnes was elected as Chaffin's substitute and for three dollars a day, he was allowed to come in once a week to allow Chaffin a day off.

But it wasn't until 1924 that Cookeville firefighters, on the whole, received payment for their services. For that year, a motion was passed that granted each appointed firefighter the sum of four dollars annually.<sup>2</sup> Salary improvements came in the fall of 1926. Effective the first of October, each firefighter was to be paid two dollars per month.<sup>3</sup> This money was drawn from the Street Fund, which was comprised largely of fines collected for various penalties and crimes.

The Cookeville City Commission was prudent about financial matters. When J. M. Loftis was elected Chief of Police and Fire Department in 1917, it was under the stipulation that he receive no salary additional to the one he was already drawing as a city employee in another capacity. The commission was not blind, however, to the

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<sup>1</sup>City of Cookeville, Minute Book V, p. 75.

<sup>2</sup>City of Cookeville, Minute Book V, p. 54.

<sup>3</sup>City of Cookeville, Minute Book V, p. 179.



needs of some of its less fortunate employees. For instance, a motion early in 1927 read, "Motion made and duly recorded, which motion carried unanimously that Robt. Ray and Cordell Sloan be paid the \$2.00 per month as Firemen on account of them getting such a small salary, the other Firemen that are on regular salary are not to get the \$2.00 per month."<sup>1</sup> This would be a somewhat confusing passage were it not for a motion passed one month earlier in which it was stated that only firefighters who were not already on the city's payroll could draw a firefighter's salary.<sup>2</sup> Ray had been elected as "...keeper and custodian of the Court House Toilet at a salary of \$2.50 per month."<sup>3</sup> It is not clear what other position Sloan might have held.

In all probability, the city paid approximately one hundred dollars in salaries to its firefighters for the year of 1924. Bill Chaffin's salary greatly increased the department's budget; in 1925, the city quite possibly paid nearly twelve hundred dollars to the firefighters. By late 1926, the commission approved close to fifteen hundred dollars (these figures do not reflect the cost of equipment). In comparison, for the 1983-84 fiscal year, the city paid just over six hundred thousand dollars in fire department salaries, alone.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>City of Cookeville, Minute Book V, p. 196.

<sup>2</sup>City of Cookeville, Minute Book V, p. 195.

<sup>3</sup>City of Cookeville, Minute Book V, p. 194.

<sup>4</sup>City of Cookeville/Statement of Proposed Expenditures/June 30, 1986.

### EQUIPMENT

Before mid-1925, Cookeville firefighters operated in a primitive manner. Many time, upon arriving at the fire scene, they would not find a water hydrant to connect with. Their communications system was far from ideal--for years, the alarms were translated by the power house into coded whistle blasts that warned the men of a fire and informed them of its location. The firefighters had some of the equipment necessary for their work: hose, nozzles, axes and ladders, but they were extremely limited in their use of these tools because they had no effective means of transportation. They relied, instead, on two-wheel wagons upon which they loaded firefighting apparatus, hand-pulling it to the fires.<sup>1</sup>

In 1925, the city commission approved the purchase of Cookeville's first fire engine, which greatly improved firefighting methods and effectiveness in town. For nine thousand dollars, the city acquired a Type 75, Combination Chemical and Hose Car, from the American-La France Fire Engine Company. The commission made a down payment of two thousand dollars and entered upon a contract to pay the balance, plus interest, over a seven year period.<sup>2</sup> Part of the funding for the truck came from private contributions.

The first call the new engine responded to, according to present City Manager, Luther Mathis, was soon after its purchase. A rolling mill (used for grinding wheat into flour) caught fire

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<sup>1</sup>Mary Jean Delozier, *Putnam County, Tennessee, 1850-1970*, pp. 151-152.

<sup>2</sup>City of Cookeville, *Minute Book V*, p. 60.

on what was then called, appropriately, Mill Street. As a child, Mathis lived in the area and can remember seeing the "...flames shooting through the roof of the old mill."

The last fire the American-La France was used on was the J. P. Hawkins structure fire in the 1950's. The engine had not been in regular service for some time, but because the fire was almost directly across the street from the old fire hall, the truck was brought out of retirement one last time.

Other fire engines have come and gone since the original American-La France, among them, a 1942 Chevrolet and a 1950 fire



Photograph courtesy of the Cookeville Fire Department.

Type 75 American-La France, Combination Chemical and Hose Car, *circa* 1925.

truck made by Ford. Both these vehicles were recently sold to the Putnam County Volunteer Fire Department.

Much has changed in the years that have passed. When the city commission agreed to buy a new truck for the fire department in 1975, fifty years after the original purchase, they paid over seventy thousand dollars. American-La France, coincidentally, made a bid for the sale to Cookeville, but lost to the Mack Company.<sup>1</sup>

Of more immediate importance to firefighters are the changes in safety gear over the years. A fire could be reported more quickly with the introduction of the telephone in the area, the fire engine cut the time required to reach the fire scene and a comprehensive city water system enabled the men to fight the fire, but without proper body gear, the firefighter could lose his life.

Smoke masks, rubber coats and boots and leather helmets were the firefighter's main source of protection in the early days of the fire department. The masks filtered out smoke, but if a firefighter found himself in a situation where there was no oxygen, he wouldn't be able to breathe. The rubber coats were not designed to protect the firefighter from fire--they were to keep him dry. And the helmet, being made of a porous material, could contract in high temperatures (although recent studies have suggested that leather helmets were superior in some ways to the plastic ones used until recently; they at least wouldn't melt). Was the firefighter's personal gear useless? Not necessarily because, like equipment,

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<sup>1</sup>City of Cookeville, Minute Book XXI, p. 289.

firefighting methods have changed. As one firefighter said, "Cookeville had an outstanding fire department. They were out standing in the street." In most situations, the firefighters did not enter a structure in flames, as they do now. They, quite simply, were not equipped to do so.

The Cookeville Fire Department has undergone an enormous change in equipment in the last few years. They use fiberglass helmets and their old cotton duck coats and bunker pants have been replaced by a new fire-resistant fabric called Nomex.<sup>1</sup> Instead of smoke masks, they use SCBA (self-contained breathing apparatus).

As current Fire Chief McCoy Shelton said, "It's a wonder we didn't have too many hurt over the years."

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<sup>1</sup>International Fire Fighter, Volume 69, p. 5.

### TRAINING

Not much is known about the very early days of training in the Cookeville Fire Department. That the men were aware of the drills available to them is evident; they received some training suggestions in the literature accompanying the first fire engine. Among advice and information for operating a motorized vehicle was the following, "For conducting instruction work, it is well to select a site in a quiet location at first, as people are generally very curious about fire apparatus, especially in smaller cities. They are apt to crowd around and draw the attention of men from their work....Next take the men down town for short runs so they will become accustomed to crowds."<sup>1</sup>

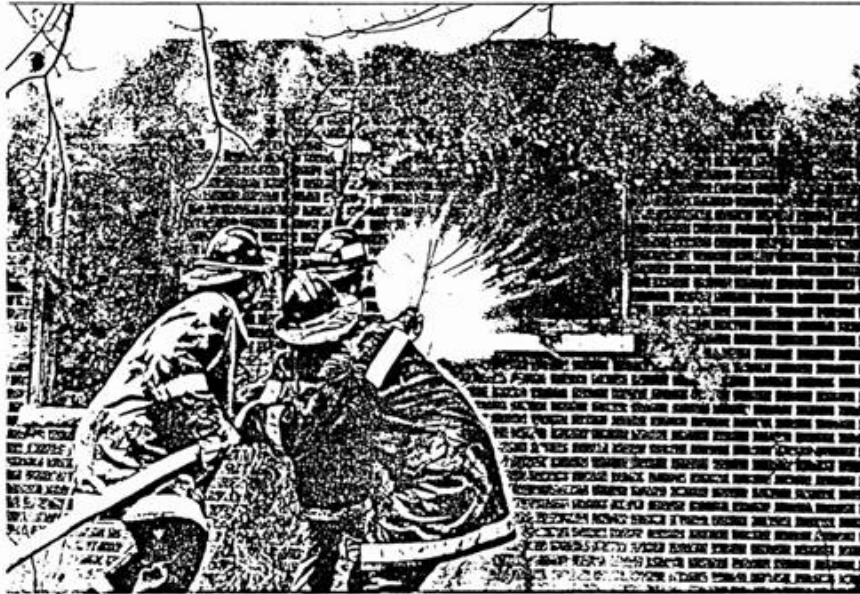
It was during the 1940's that structured training for the firefighters began. The State Department of Insurance and Banking paid an instructor who would travel the state, going from department to department, training personnel. In Cookeville, the classes met in night sessions for two weeks out of the year. One of the exercises was called a "hose-connect." The men would practice reeling out hose along a stretch of road or sidewalk to the nearest hydrant. While being timed, the firefighters would connect the hose lengths, while the "plug man" would hook onto the hydrant. In their haste, their coordination wasn't always perfect--one Cookeville volunteer remembers getting drenched occasionally.

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<sup>1</sup> American-La France Instruction Manual, pp. 176-177.

Later training was provided, also by the state, at the MTSU campus in Murfreesboro. Classes were held in the summer when regular student enrollment was low. Firefighters from across the state stayed in the dorms and ate at the school cafeteria. Eventually, a state-operated fire school was established in Murfreesboro.

Other training programs over the years have benefited Cookeville firefighters. They have been trained in, among other aspects of the trade, defensive driving, hazardous materials and EMC (emergency medical care).



Photograph possession of the writer.

Cookeville firefighters working a fire drill in town.

But it wasn't until 1983 that Cookeville initiated a comprehensive fire skills program. The city approved the hiring of a year-round instructor, Stan Janson, a retired District Commander from Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Janson has twenty-six years of firefighting behind him, plus the added experience of training more than three hundred firefighters during a four year period, and participation in a county-wide fire academy.

Presently, Cookeville firefighters have weekly training sessions of four hours each. They're tested on the material covered in class and classified according to standards set by the Tennessee Commission on Fire Fighting Personnel. According to their present status as Journeymen, the Cookeville firefighters are well-rounded professionals.



### STRUCTURES

In 1925, the city commission gave the firefighters their first home, the old power and water station on North Walnut. A motion recorded in March of that year stated that certain refurbishing would be done and that henceforth, the building would be used as Cookeville's fire station. Also in the motion was the suggestion that the fire station be used as "...the home of the man in charge of the Fire Engine."<sup>1</sup>

The firefighters worked out of that station for better than forty years, finally moving to the lower level of City Hall on Broad Street in 1967. Soon afterward, the original fire hall was torn down and replaced by a parking lot to serve the Drama Center.

But Cookeville was growing rapidly and the fire department was forced to expand also. In 1974, the city council (Cookeville abandoned the city commission in favor of the more efficient council-manager form of city government in 1961)<sup>2</sup> authorized the construction of two additional fire stations, or sub-stations, on the north and south ends of town. The buildings, modified brick homes with dormitory-style bedrooms and bathrooms and double bays for the storage of equipment and fire engines, cost the city almost one hundred thousand dollars each.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>City of Cookeville, Minute Book V, p. 62.

<sup>2</sup>Mary Jean Delozier, *Putnam County, Tennessee, 1850-1970*, p. 303.

<sup>3</sup>City of Cookeville, Minute Book XXI, p. 165.

PERSONNEL CHANGES

Even though the Cookeville Fire Department has officially existed since the passing of Ordinance 104 in 1917, it operated on a largely volunteer basis until the mid-1970's. As City Manager Luther Mathis says, the evolution from a volunteer fire service to a full-time professional department has been "...sort of a gradual process."

As previously stated, the fire department grew with the city. The first indication of changes in policy came in the 1950's. Until then, the city fire department had answered calls outside the city limits, but a ruling influenced by a city attorney changed that. He suggested that the fire department limit its activities on the grounds that if a home or business burned while the the department was on a run in the outlying county area, the city could be sued. (On a related note, a mutual aid agreement was enacted between 1983 and 1984 by the Cookeville City Council, allowing the city fire department to respond not only to Putnam County alarms when requested to by the appropriate city authorities, but additionally to nine other municipalities outside the Cookeville city and Putnam County limits, namely: Gainesboro, Livingston, Smithville, Sparta, Monterey, Algood, Celina, Jamestown, and Baxter.)

As late as 1959, there were only five full-time firefighters employed by the city. Cookeville had to rely, almost exclusively, on those private citizens who were volunteers.

Present Fire Chief McCoy Shelton and City Manager Luther Mathis were both volunteers for years before assuming their current positions.

Chief Shelton remembers missing a grass fire in 1953-- en route to the fire scene, he rolled his car, a late-model Hudson, at a stop sign. City Manager Mathis had this to say, "The older you get, the less important it is to get to the fire in a hurry."

Even so, as Chief Shelton stated, "It's been a joyous experience. We weren't getting anything back then, but people were really dedicated."

There were nine full-time employees in 1967 and by 1970, with twelve firefighters, the number of volunteers was seriously reduced.

Cookeville's most dramatic growth came as an almost direct result of the construction of Interstate 40 between 1960 and 1970; in that time, Cookeville's population nearly doubled,<sup>1</sup> and the fire department, since then, has worked to adapt itself to the city's needs. Training methods have improved measuredly as have equipment requirements; for example, in 1970, the fire department operated between three and five trucks, while presently there are ten vehicles associated with the fire department (a ladder truck, equipment van, brush truck, chief's car, five pumpers and the restored American-La France). Additional firefighters have been hired over the years--from twelve full-time employees in 1970, the department has tried to maintain twelve employees per shift, or thirty-six firefighters altogether, not counting the chief and fire instructor. After the sub-stations were

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<sup>1</sup> Tennessee Technological University, *History of the Upper Cumberland*, Winter Quarter, 1986: Mary Jean Delozier, Instructor.

built, shift changes became necessary; previously, firefighters worked twenty-four hours and were off duty twenty-four hours, resulting in a work schedule of seventy-two to ninety-six hours a week. Toward the end of 1978, the shifts changed to twenty-four hours on duty and forty-eight hours off, so that their work schedule was altered to average, over a year's time, fifty-six and a half hours a week.

Across the nation, and Cookeville is no exception, there is still controversy between supporters of volunteer fire services and full-time fire departments. As more cities and counties abandon the volunteer system to institute full-time departments, government officials and their constituencies alike complain of the expense involved in maintaining this public service.

For all their good intentions, the volunteers simply are not able to provide adequate fire protection for the city. By definition, volunteers are people who give a service for little or no payment in return; most people have to depend on an additional source of income for their livelihoods. The majority of volunteer firefighters have full-time jobs to attend and the amount of time they are able to give the fire department is necessarily limited, both for training and actual fire service. And in the time it takes to call a volunteer from his or her home or business, a house or even a life could be lost.

It was absolutely imperative that a city the size of Cookeville employ a full-time fire department, for the protection of property and life and for financial reasons. Without a

recognized professional fire department, insurance rates for public and private properties would skyrocket (although the city's insurance rating is still not superior, because even today, there are a few volunteers listed on the official city roster of firefighters).

A full-time fire department works twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Firefighting, like childbirth, is not dependent on convenient times or locations; fire alarms sound as readily at two o'clock in the morning as they do at two o'clock in the afternoon, and the professional firefighter is always ready and willing to respond.



A Shift: from left to right.  
 Standing: Bob Swift, Bill Maxwell,  
 Carson Davis, Lt. Bill Sliger,  
 Jerry Overall, Donnie Vinson,  
 Lt. Bob Taylor.  
 Kneeling: Ernest Slagle, Dan Scott,  
 Glenn Stewart.  
 Not pictured: Lt. Charles Frazier,  
 Tom Gothard.

THE COOKEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT, FEBRUARY, 1986.

B Shift: from left to right.  
 Standing: Ernest Copeland,  
 Lt. J. C. McDaniel, Silas  
 Gentry, Ricky Bohannon,  
 Joe Power, Carl Holder,  
 Capt. Ray Vaughn.  
 Kneeling: Chief McCoy Shelton,  
 Eugene Schmid, David Randolph.  
 Not pictured: Lt. L.C. Stamps,  
 James Lollar.



Photographs possession of the writer.



C Shift: from left to right.  
 Standing: Jimmy Young, Claude Wilson  
 Lt. Delbert W. Benjamin, Bruce  
 Womack, Carson Harness, Gary Goolsby,  
 Ronald Allen.  
 Kneeling: Lt. Earl Cowan, John  
 Clemons, Lt. Billy J. Brogdon,  
 Roger Fuqua, Craig Farris.

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APPENDIX I

"Ordinance No. 181.

An ordinance to provide for and to organize a paid fire department and to provide means for the regulation and control of said fire department and to provide rules and regulations for the prevention of fires or the spread of fires.

Section 1. Be it ordained by the Commissioners of Cookeville, Tennessee, that in order to protect life, avoid injury and preserve property within the City limits from fire, that the Commissioners of Cookeville, Tennessee hereby organize a Fire Department which shall consist of such apparatus as the town now has and such as hereafter may be provided, and of a personal (sic) to be composed of a Chief of Fire Department and one Company, which Company shall be composed of A Captain, Lieutendant (sic) and not to exceed Sixteen members in said Company.

Section 2. Be it further ordained that the Chief of Fire Department shall be a man especially qualified for the duties incumbent upon him and shall hold office for an indefinite term subject however to the will of the majority of the members of the Board of Commissioners, but shall be subject to suspension (sic) from (sic) duties by the Commissioner of Streets, Fire and Police. The Chief of the Fire Department shall be at the head of the department subject to the rules and regulations herein provided. He shall be held responsible for the good order and efficiency of the department.

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APPENDIX I (cont.)

It shall be his duty to examine into the condition of the fire stations, apparatus, hose, and all other property of the Fire Department as often as may be necessary or whenever directed to do so by the Commissioner of Streets, Fire and Police. He shall drill the Fire Department in the use of the apparatus and equipment under the direction of the Commissioner of Streets, Fire and Police, and the City shall compensate each member for attendance at drill except officers, who shall receive a stated sum as provided, or such officers as are on the regular pay rolls of the city, receiving a salary as some other officail (sic). An absence from three consegative (sic) drill meetings without legitimate excuse will serve to automatically drop the member from the department rolls. The Chief of Fire Department shall keep a complete record of all the operations of the Department and submit a monthly and annual report to the Commissioner of Streets, Fire and Police. He shall attend all fires when not providentially hindered or excused by the Commissioner of Streets, Fire and Police and direct the officers in matters pertaining to their duties. He may, in his judgement, suspend members from duty and make report of such action to the Commissioner of Streets, Fire and Police, for his approval, and, if said dismissed is approved by the Commissioner of Streets, Fire and Police, said suspension shall become permanent. If it becomes necessary for the Chief of the Fire Department to absent himself from the City or town he shall first notify the Assistant Chief to take charge

APPENDIX I (cont.)

of the department during his absence.

Section 3. Be it further ordained that there is hereby established the office of Assistant Chief of Fire Department, and his duty shall be to take charge of fires in the absence of the Chief when he shall assume the same powers as devolves upon the Chief.

Section 4. Be it further ordained that there shall be a Captain for each Company of Firemen and it shall be his duty to assume command of said company at fires and the first Captain arriving at a fire shall assume command of all firemen and fire apparatus until the arrival of a superior officer. They shall preserve the discipline of their Company and make reports monthly of the condition of the apparatus, hose and all the other equipment in their control, to the Chief of the Fire Department; direct their companies at fires; and perform such other duties as the Chief may direct. Also that there shall be one Lieutendant (sic) for each fire company, whose duty it shall be to act and exercise the duties of a Captain and have the same powers as a Captain in the absence of the Captain of his company.

Section 5. Be it further ordained that all members must obey the orders of their superior officers when on duty. They shall assist in returning all equipment to their respective fire stations after fires unless excused by the Chief of the Fire Department. They shall respond promptly on receiving fire alarms and report to their officer in charge and any member unduly late in responding upon

APPENDIX I (cont.)

receipt of fire alarms shall not receive full pay for the call. All members shall notify the Chief when sick or desiring to be excused from duty and no member shall be permitted to leave a fire for any reason except he be excused by the officer in command. It shall be the duty of the Chief to acquaint each and every man on becoming a member of the department, with the rules and regulations (sic) governing said Department and for any member of the department may be discharged from the roll for any of the following offenses; to wit: Intoxication, any act of in-subordination (sic), any act of oppression or tyranny, neglect of duty, neglect or disobedience to orders, absence from a fire without leave, immoral conduct, conduct not becoming a gentleman, violations of any ordinance of the city or the violation of any rule or regulation governing (sic) the department.

Section 6. Be it further ordained that the Chief of the Fire Department shall be authorized to exercise Police powers at times of fires and summons to his assistance such additional help as he may deem necessary to control the fire. That the Chief of Fire Department shall and is hereby authorized to enforce all fire prevention ordinances contained in the city or town Code of Laws.

Section 7. Be it further ordained that Cookeville, Tennessee furnish to the members of the Fire Department rubber coats or other suitable cloth, and fire helmets to be worn at fires, drills and on duty, only. Said clothing to be and to remain the property of City of Cookeville and shall be ordered subject to the approval of the

APPENDIX I (cont.)

Commissioner of Streets, Fire and Police, only. And that every  
(sic) member of the Fire Department that attends and assists at  
a fire receive for his services, the sum of Four Dollars per annum,  
provided however, that the members of the Fire Department as  
regular members may be paid a salary to be fixed by the Commissioners  
by order of said Commissioners in regular session, not to exceed  
\_\_\_\_\_ Dollars per annum.

Section 8. Be it further ordained that this ordinance take  
effect from and after its passage, the public welfare requiring it."

Passed First Reading May 4, 1925.

Passed Second Reading May 12, 1925.

Passed Third and Final Reading May 21, 1925.

J. E. Owen,  
City Clerk.

Approved May 21, 1925.

Wm. A. Hensley,  
Mayor.

APPENDIX II

Original members and founders of the Cookeville volunteer  
fire brigade.<sup>1</sup>

Frank Wirt, Chief

W. R. Staley

Charles W. Gracey

Herbie J. Shanks

V. Speakman

Harvey Terry

A. A. Conger

Charles Isbell

Jeff Wall

Fred Staley

John H. Whitson

W. W. McDonald

Walter R. Carlen

Harris Lee

Harvey D. Whitson

J. T. Ford

Willis Hyder

<sup>1</sup> Mary Jean Delozier, *Putnam County, Tennessee, 1850-1970*, p. 151



APPENDIX III

Cookeville Fire Department Roster, June 25, 1917.<sup>1</sup>

"Company I:

J. M. Loftis, Chief

J. E. Collier, Mgr.

J. H. Whitson, Capt.

Chas Stanton, 1st Lieut.

Jim Wall, 2nd Lieut.

Rob Ray, Nozzle Man

Ben Ragland, Ladder Man

Cooper Loftis, Plug Man

Company III:

A. L. Brogdon, Capt.

Henry Foster, 1st Lieut.

D. E. Ballard, 2nd Lieut.

Harry High, Nozzle Man

D. L. High, Ladder Man

W. H. Gilbreath, Plug Man

Company II:

D. E. Slagle, Capt.

A. A. Carlen, 1st Lieut.

R. L. Rash, 2nd Lieut.

Jim Carter, Nozzle Man

Homer Jared, Ladder Man

Dow Ballard, Plug Man

Jeff Wall

Monroe Yates

Company IV:

H. M. Hughes, Capt.

D. E. Reed, 1st Lieut.

Tice Robbins, 2nd Lieut.

Jim Coe, Nozzle Man

Walter Greenwood, Ladder Man

Hugh Hogan, Plug Man"

<sup>1</sup>City of Cookeville, Minute Book 3, p. 234.